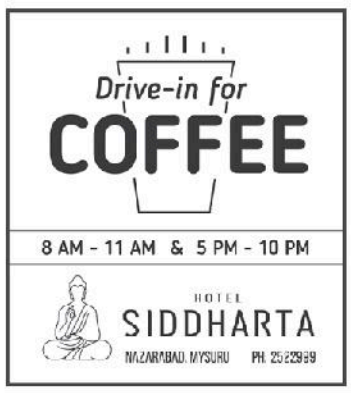

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Thursday 24th December 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

City Churches decked up for Xmas

- Special prayers from 11 pm tonight till tomorrow, December 25 morning, at St. Philomena's Church
- Limited entry of devotees at Churches

A view of the illuminated St. Bartholomew's Church in city.

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (MTY&KS)- Mysuru city is preparing for Christmas as the Government desperately tries to thread the needle between preserving public health and allowing families to gather for traditional celebrations at the end of 2020.

However, Coronavirus-induced night curfew hasn't dampened the Christmas cheer for many as they feel it is only wise to celebrate the festival with caution. Churches have announced that there will be limited entry of devotees while a few Churches have changed prayer timings. Despite these rules and arrangements, the Christmas spirit is unaffected.

The festival will be celebrated in a traditional manner at the city's iconic St. Philomena's Church. Addressing reporters at Bishop's House yesterday, Mysuru Bishop Most Rev. Dr. K.A. William said that the celebration will be held in the presence of limited devotees where social distancing, wearing of face masks and using sanitisers are mandatory.

Special prayers will be held on Dec. 24 (today) from 11.30 pm till early morning tomorrow. Though there is a capacity for 1,000 devotees inside the Church, only 250 to 300 devotees would be allowed inside and arrangements for 1,000 persons has been made inside the Church compound.

On Dec. 25, prayers will be held every hour from 5 am to 9 am. To facilitate devotees standing outside the Church, large LED screens will be installed. After the first batch of devotees take part in prayers and leave, the second batch will be allowed inside, Bishop William said.

"Small viruses such as envy, selfishness, suspicions and pride and evil inclinations have to be conquered. Christmas is a time to address these and try to re-create a new world, where everyone can once again learn to live like brothers and sisters belonging to one single family," the Bishop said in his Xmas message.

(See XMAS on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled ***"Of Journalism and Journalists ! — Is Indian media divided ideologically, like political parties?"*** *—***Ed**

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Thursday 24th December 2020

No CBSE exams till Feb. 2021

New Delhi, Dec. 24 (Agencies)- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said the CBSE Board exams would not be held till February 2021 and more discussion was needed to fix the Board exam next year.

Ramesh Pokhriyal

Interacting with teachers on Twitter on Tuesday, he said the Board exam situation has been confusing both students and parents as no date has been decided for the start of the CBSE Board exams 2021. Usually, the CBSE Board exam schedule for the upcoming year was released by November in the previous year.

Pokhriyal said the CBSE Board exam syllabus for classes 10 and 12 has been reduced by 30 per cent due to lack of classroom teaching time and as safety measures of the pandemic.

However, it had been speculated since October that CBSE might reduce the Board exam 2021 syllabus even further by reducing it by a total 50 per cent. Moreover, it was noted that the Board exams 2021 might be delayed by two months.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa,

You must be busy sanitising your sleigh and masking up your reindeers. Just don't cough, sneeze or clear your throat, OK? This is not the year to go ho ho ho...

Too much of a good thing on the family front; any chance you can give us back our empty nests? Yes, we dabbed our eyes when people expressed sympathy at the departure of the youngest, but now that the kids have been with us for almost a year, we can't stop crying. We don't want them, but schools don't want them either!

Remind us to wear our daily pants, Zoom or no Zoom – some day the camera won't be off. Make us scream like Tom Cruise does at his crew, earn like Jeff Bezos and swat away enemies like Melania does Trump's approaching hand. Get landlords to cut rents if we are tenants; keep rents unchanged if we are landlords...

Help us launch our own COVID Collection. A brisk line in masks perhaps: denim masks, hand-painted masks, embroidered masks, crocheted masks, knitted masks ... PPE bridal wear will fly off the shelves. Hazmat suits that make you look taller or thinner. Right now they have us resemble fruit pulp. Face shields may be transparent, but they can be tinted or available with gold piping or a lace hem. How about skin-coloured gloves?

Also, solve a global whodunit for us – where did this virus come from? China, Italy, outer space? Its inability to convert itself into a Sanskrit word is a dead giveaway of its foreign roots. And can't this whole thing go away without a vaccine? As babies we submitted to many injections, chiefly because no one asked us and we knew about the needle only when it was halfway in. But now we are on to allergic reactions, lack of research etc ... We didn't even get a tattoo, you know. Here's wishing you and all your work-from-home elves a muffled merry Christmas from under the mask! Don't forget to self-quarantine when you get back home. Plum cakes are replaced with banana bread, and you will find us in Maldives. — *Shinie Antony in The Times of India*

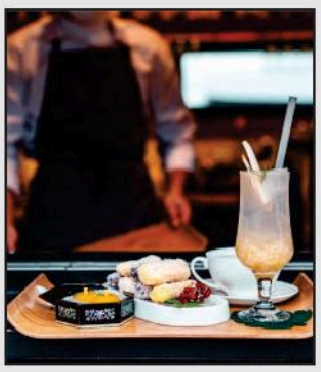
NEWS SPARKLERS

Family creating ice trees for Christmas for over 60 years

Indianapolis: Since 1961 every year, the Veal family has been celebrating Christmas by creating their now-traditional giant ice tree on their property in Indianapolis, Indiana. It has become known as the Veal Ice Tree and is considered a seasonal tourist attraction.

It looks nothing like a tree, in fact no living trees have ever been used in the creation of this magnificent ice sculpture, but it became known as the ice tree a long time ago, and the name stuck. It's actually an ice-sculpture made by attaching water hoses to a wooden frame, turning the water on on freezing nights, and letting the weather mold the ice-sculpture into existence. The Veal Ice Tree goes up every year, or almost every year and it always gets a lot of attention from locals.

False review shuts down South Korean restaurant



Daegu: HayanTree, a popular restaurant and food reviewer on YouTube, has recently come under fire for causing a restaurant to close down after his false review negatively affected the business.

HayanTree, who at the time sported just over 700,000 subscribers on YouTube, posted a video review of an all-you-can-eat soy sauce-marinated crab restaurant in Daegu. At one point, the popular YouTuber refills his plate, but notices grains of rice in his marinade, raising the suspicion that the restaurant might be reusing its unsold food.

The controversial review quickly went viral, getting over 1 million views in a matter of days, and impacted the accused restaurant so profoundly that it had to be closed down a few days later.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Eggstatic!

Whole eggs are so nutritious that they are termed as "nature's multi vitamin". It is a myth that eggs are bad for you because of their cholesterol content.

By Kavya. J - Department of Dietetics & Nutrition

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mysuru

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases yesterday	:	43
Total positive cases	:	51,957
Discharges yesterday	:	41
Total discharges	:	50,505
Deaths yesterday	:	2
Total deaths	:	1,008
Total active cases	:	444

Mandya

Positive cases yesterday	:	15
Total positive cases	:	19,284
Total discharges	:	18,928
Total deaths	:	147
Total active cases	:	209

Chamarajanagar

Positive cases yesterday	:	27
Total positive cases	:	6,700
Total discharges	:	6,455
Total deaths	:	119
Total active cases	:	115

Kodagu

Positive cases yesterday	:	1
Total positive cases	:	5,650
Total discharges	:	5,467
Total deaths	:	70
Total active cases	:	113

Hassan

Positive cases yesterday	:	26
Total positive cases	:	27,815
Total discharges	:	27,161
Total deaths	:	393
Total active cases	:	261

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Boy: *Can I hold your hand?*
Girl: *No.*
Boy: *Why?*
Girl: *Because it hurts when you leave it.*
Boy (in his mind): *Oh my God, I am acting but she is overacting !!*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.58
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 99.76
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.03
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.81

VOICE OF THE READER

FASTag and electric scooter: Some thoughts

Sir,

Apropos the letter ***"Toll Plaza-free India: Why make FASTag mandatory?"*** *(SOM* dated Dec.21), Prof. B.S. Shankara (retd.) has very clearly highlighted the lacuna in Government policies.

When a car owner has voluntarily limited the use of his vehicle to local travel only, why should the owner be burdened with FAStag? It should be the prerogative of the owner to opt-in or opt-out for FASTag, when the owner has decided not to take his vehicle for outside travel.

Regarding the electric scooter, the Government is under a wrong notion that electric scooters cannot make accidents. It is not the vehicle, but the rider who makes an accident. When an electric scooter makes an accident, the victim has to fend for himself all the related financial burdens, since the electric scooter plies without insurance.

Also I was informed that the minimum age to ride an electric scooter is 16 years — Government is encouraging underage adolescents to venture out for a ride sans insurance, helmet and licence.

— K. Chandrahas
Mysuru
22.12.2020

30-year roadmap for Mysore Airport ready

Mysore Airport Director R. Manjunath speaks at NAREDCO session

Mayor Tasneem seen lighting the lamp to inaugurate the interactive session on 'Roadmap for Mysuru as international air travel destination' organised by NAREDCO in city recently. Mysore Airport Director R. Manjunath and others look on.

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (MK&BCT)- The Mysore Airport at Mandakalli will see good infrastructure and facility development and all these are being done phase-by-phase, said Airport Director R. Manjunath.

He was addressing the gathering as a chief guest at a session on 'Roadmap for Mysuru as international air travel destination' organised by National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), Mysuru at *Hotel Grand Mercure* on Tuesday evening.

A 30-year project report and roadmap has been prepared for the development of the Airport that operates at least nine flights every day to various destinations. The airport was once non-operational and slowly it has turned as a preferred choice among Mysureans, he said.

Manjunath added that the long-term plan was to make the Airport a travel hub with a wide range of facilities including an expanded runway that can host bigger planes.

Another chief guest Mayor Tasneem expressed happiness over attending such a meeting organised by NAREDCO that discusses the future of development in Mysuru. In the coming days, the MCC will offer full cooperation to NAREDCO to maintain cleanliness and other vital aspects of Mysuru city, she added.

Later, NAREDCO member G.K. Sudheendra gave a presentation-lecture on Mysuru as international air travel destination — advantages of being prepared.

NAREDCO State President M. Satish Kumar, NAREDCO Mysuru Unit Chairman N. Divyesh, President T.G. Adisheshan Gowda and Hon. Secretary M.L. Nagesh were present on the occasion.

Schools, Colleges will re-open from Jan. 1: Minister clarifies

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (KMS&SSV)- Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar has ruled out any change in the date of re-opening of Schools and Colleges and said it would start from Jan. 1, 2021.

Suresh Kumar

Talking to reporters here yesterday, he said the decision to re-open Schools and Colleges had been taken only after consulting COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee members. Before finalising the date, meetings were held with Chief Executive Officers of all Zilla Panchayats, Block Education Officers and Deputy Directors of Department Instruction to elicit their opinion. Since a majority of them favoured re-opening of Schools and Colleges to conduct classes for 10th and 12th std. students in the wake of Board exams, the Government fixed Jan. 1, 2021 for re-opening. Discussions were also held in connection with *Vidyagama* programme for students from 6th to 9th std.

RT-PCR test for teachers

The Minister said RT-PCR test was mandatory for all teachers and they should get it done before 72 hours of re-opening of Schools and Colleges. They must wear face mask and shield while taking classes. Attending offline classes was not mandatory but those who wish to come to School or College must bring consent letter from parents, he added.

SSLC, PU Board exams will not be held in March

Suresh Kumar has clarified that the SSLC and PUC examinations will not be conducted in the month of March.

Clearing the confusion regarding the SSLC and PUC examination dates for this academic year in the State, the Minister opined that the focus was to reopen schools and colleges in a safe manner.

"We are working on the syllabus so that it would not become a burden for students, especially for those students who are willing to take national level competitive exams, which will be finalised in the next few days," he said.

The Minister has also advised private schools to adopt Vidyagama, the continuous learning programme for school children, for the benefit of students of rural areas.

He also assured that problems faced by private schools will be resolved very soon.

Now, KEA to conduct ITI exams

Bengaluru, Dec. 24- In an effort to enhance the quality of training and evaluation in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), the State Government has decided to hand over the responsibility of conducting ITI exams to Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA).

On Monday, Secretary of Skills Development Department Selvakumar and Principal Secretary of Higher Education Department Kumar Nayak signed and exchanged the documents in the presence of Deputy CM and Minister of Higher Education Dr. C.N. Ashwathanarayana.

Earlier, Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation Ltd., used to conduct ITI exam, but many concerns were raised about the nature of the exam and about its transparency.

In the wake of these objections, Dr. Ashwathanarayana had promised to discuss this matter with experts. Now, as per the experts' opinion, all exam related activities including preparation of question papers, distribution of hall tickets, evaluation of answer papers and announcement of results will be undertaken by KEA.

Obituary

N. Ravindranath

Mysuru, Dec. 24- N. Ravindranath (36), driver at Mysuru City Corporation and a resident of Vinayakanagar (Paduvarahalli), passed away yesterday afternoon in city following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife Punyavathi, daughter Kavana, son Adyanta and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this morning, according to family sources.

Applications invited for Marker training

Mysuru, Dec.24- Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, under its Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan Scheme for the year 2020-21, has invited applications from eligible candidates belonging to SC/ST communities to provide marker training for 100 members. Interested may apply before Dec. 28. For applications and details, contact Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Ph: 0821-2564179, according to a release from Assistant Director.

Aadhaar Seva Kendras closed tomorrow

Mysuru, Dec. 24- Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) at Vijayanagar and Saraswathipuram will remain closed tomorrow (Dec. 25) on the occasion of Christmas, according to Col. N.G. Krishna Prasad (Retd.), Centre Manager ASK, Mysuru.

NEWS BRIEFS

Lok Adalat

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) had organised mega Lok Adalat on Dec. 19 to resolve select cases pending in Courts through amicable solutions. Out of 20,156 cases of 60 Courts in Mysuru district pending for settlement, a total of 8,884 cases were compromised with total settlement of Rs. 96 crore. The Lok Adalat also witnessed settlement of family related matters where 14 couples have agreed to live together in a peaceful manner.

Armed Police post final list announced

The final list for the 50 vacant posts of Armed Police in the district has been announced at the Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP) in city, according to a press release from SP C.B. Ryshyanth.

Annual General Body Meetings

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of ITI Gruha Nirmana Saharaka Sangha will be held at Hotel Anand Vihar Kalyan Mantap, on Dec. 25 at 10.30 am. Sangha President R.N. Ramachandraiah will preside.

The AGM of Raju Kashstriya Credit Co-operative Sangha will be held at Sangha premises at Saraswathipuram on Dec. 25 at 10 am. Sangha President S. Shivakumar will preside.

Appointed

Y.S. Siddaraju of Bengaluru has been appointed as the Karnataka State Convenor of Namo Mantra Foundation, Noida. The Foundation is a constant endeavour to strengthen the visionary and ambitious schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Foundation is also involved in many social activities. The Karnataka State Convenor's co-operation is also required to set up teams in a few neighbouring States too.

KRS Water Level

(Maximum : 124.80 feet)

Today	119.37 ft
Yesterday	119.38 ft
Inflow	2,177 cusecs
Outflow	2,150 cusecs

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,271.07 ft
Inflow	480 cusecs
Outflow	125 cusecs

Harangi Level

(Maximum : 2,859.00 feet)

Today	2,818.72 ft
Inflow	73 cusecs
Outflow	820 cusecs

Sankalpa Soudha Farm Machinery Hire Centre inaugurated

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (PM&SD)- Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) Executive Director Dr. L.H. Manjunath inaugurated the newly constructed Office of the South Zone Farm Machinery Custom Hire Centre at Sankalpa Soudha, Kalasthavadi here yesterday morning.

In an effort to promote paddy cultivation and harvesting using modern technology, SKDRDP, known for its various initiatives to help the people of rural areas since 2014, has undertaken this ambitious project in Mysuru district.

Later, addressing the gathering, Regional Director M.K. Abraham highlighted the salient features of the project.

Farm Mechanisation project, which was undertaken by the State Government, under its *Krishi Yantra Dhare* programme, in association with SKDRDP in the year 2014, has now a total of 164 CHSCs (Custom Hire Service Centres) in the State.

The South Zone has 55 centres and each centre now has over one crore rupees worth farm machinery and equipment as well as five combined harvesters to help farmers take up agricultural activities with ease.

The major constraint in mechanisation is that small and marginal farmers cannot afford to purchase costly equipment. With the establishment of CHSCs in the region, farmers are able to hire and avail services from the centre.

At present, there are 25 harvesters including paddy harvesting machines which are available for use in the centre. Under the *Yantrasri* programme of the SKDRDP, a total of 392 farmers have availed the services for paddy cultivation in the current Kharif season.

Mysuru Regional Director P. Gangadhara Rai and South Zone Centre Director Dinesh were present during the inauguration.

Vatal calls for 'Rail Roko' and 'Jail Bharo' on Jan. 9

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (PM&SSV)- Kannada Chaluvali Vatal Paksha President Vatal Nagaraj has called for a 'Rail Roko' and 'Jail Bharo' agitation on Jan.9, 2021, urging the State Government to withdraw its order on the formation of Maratha Development Corporation in the State.

Speaking to media persons on Tuesday after staging a protest in front of City Railway Station, Vatal demanded conferring the highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' on late seer Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Tumakuru Siddaganga Mutt and withdrawal of order for the formation of Maratha Development Corporation.

Vatal said holding of 'Rail Roko' and 'Jail Bharo' was as part of second stage of agitation against the Government on the Maratha Development Corporation issue. On that day, strike would be held at over 1,000 places and the activists would sit on tracks everywhere. They would not allow the movement of trains, he claimed.

The Government of India must confer Bharat Ratna on late on late seer Sri Shivakumara Swamiji of Tumakuru Siddaganga Mutt before Republic Day celebrations. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and the BJP MPs' from Karnataka must put pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this connection. The CM must resign if he cannot do it. An agitation will be launched by involving all pontiffs.

—Vatal Nagaraj
Kannada Chaluvali Vatal Paksha President

On Jan. 9, he said, thousands of activists would take part in 'Jail Bharo' in all district headquarters. On behalf of the State of Maharashtra, Shiv Sena has filed a petition in Supreme Court demanding inclusion of some places in Belagavi district like Nippani into their State. Under this circumstance, the Karnataka Government must not constitute Maratha Development Corporation as it would remain as a biggest blot in history, he added.

On Recognised Unaided Private Schools Association's (RUPSA) threatening to stop online coaching from next month if its demands were not met by the State Government, the Kannada activist slammed the Association for behaving like a chieftain. Unfortunately, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar have lacked clarity on this issued. The panacea for this was nationalization of private educational institutions, Vatal noted.

26 out of 119 Britain returnees turn-up for RT-PCR test

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (YDS, PM &SSV)- As many as 26 UK returned passengers underwent RT-PCR test at a special counter opened by the District Administration at Town Hall in city this morning.

Till noon, 26 persons had given the sample and others are expected to come to the special counter before 4 pm. The COVID-19 War Room has informed all 119 passengers to compulsorily undergo RT-PCR test before 4 pm today. Those who failed to turn up for testing would be identified and would be asked to adhere with directive.

Dr. Chidambara, District Vector Borne Diseases Control and Food Control Officer, who is also the COVID Nodal Officer told reporters that the collected samples are sent to Mysore Medical College and Research Institute for laboratory test. The test report would be sent to individuals by SMS. In case any person test 'positive,' the sample would be sent to National Institute of Virology Branch at NIMHANS, Bengaluru to ascertain whether it was the new strain of Coronavirus or not. All of them have been advised quarantine. However, the number of quarantine days would be more for those who tested positive.

Meeting held

The decision to conduct RT-PCR test was taken at a meeting conducted by Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri here yesterday in the wake of emergence of a new strain of Coronavirus. She said 119 persons have arrived from Dec 1 to 20 and 18 persons on Dec. 21. In total, 137 persons have arrived here from Britain.

Rohini said all those who have returned from Dec. 21 have undergone COVID-19 test but not all of them returned before Dec. 20 have got RT-PCR test done. The test of 18 persons returned on Dec. 21 had come negative. However, all those who arrived here before Dec. 20 must get tested compulsorily. The asymptomatic and persons who had direct contact with 137 passengers must also get them tested immediately, she noted.

ZP CEO Paramesh, MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj, District Health Officer Dr. T. Amarnath and others attended the meeting.

Temples gear up for Vaikunta Ekadashi tomorrow with COVID measures

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (RK&BCT)- Tomorrow, Dec. 25, is *Vaikunta Ekadashi* and Vaishnavites celebrate this by visiting Vishnu Temples and entering the *Vaikunta Dwara.*

The festival occurs in the month of *Margashira* (December – January) during the fortnight of waxing moon is of special significance. This is a major festival of South India celebrated in all the temples of Lord Vishnu.

This year, however, the festival is being celebrated amidst COVID contagion and amidst Government guidelines. While several temples have made arrangements for devotees, some have announced that the doors would be closed for devotees.

The famous Sri Lakshmi Venkataramanaswamy Temple at Vontikoppal will be closed for devotes tomorrow. In an announcement, the Temple Trust has announced that the measure has been taken to prevent the spread of the killer virus.

The opening of the 'heavenly' gate during *Vaikunta Ekadashi* at this temple attracts thousands of devotees, many of whom throng the shrine all through the night. This time, due to the pandemic and owing to the implementation of standard operating procedure laid down by the State Government, it has been decided not to allow devotees to the Temple, the Trust sources said.

At the Ganapathi Sachchidananda Ashrama on Ooty Road, there will be an opportunity for darshan of the Lord. Temple authorities told Star of Mysore, apart from the *darshan,* the ashram will be closed for devotees.

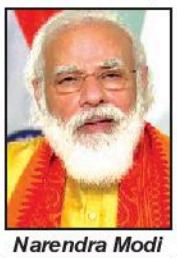
The main gate will be closed and visitors can have *darshan* through the temple gate and return. They cannot park their vehicles inside the ashram. *Prasadam* will not be distributed and those who come for darshan will have to adhere to the COVID guidelines.

At the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Temple, there will be usual *darshan* and there will be *Vaikunta Dwara Puja*, said Vinuthan Mahesh who looks after the affairs of ISKCON Mysuru. Rules like social distancing, wearing of masks and use of sanitisers have been made mandatory.

"We have even provided the facility for devotees to wash their feet. There will be usual *sevas* and *prasadam* distribution," he said and added that due to the pandemic, the festival would not be large scale and grand.

PM Modi to release Rs. 18,000 crore to farmers' accounts tomorrow

Event to be telecast live at Mysuru City BJP Office at 12 noon



Narendra Modi

New Delhi, Dec. 24 (MTY& BCT)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release Rs. 18,000 crore to the accounts of over nine crore farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is celebrated as 'Sushasan Divas.'

The event will be held at 12 pm tomorrow (Dec. 25) at every development block across the country and two crore farmers have already registered for it. In Mysuru, the event will be telecast live at Mysuru City BJP Office said BJP State Vice-President M. Rajendra.

Addressing a press conference at Patrakarthara Bhavan yesterday, he said, "On Dec. 25, we celebrate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary and we celebrate it as 'Sushasan Divas' (Good Governance Day). After Modi became the PM, many steps have been taken to promote good governance, transparency and DBT is an important scheme. There was a time when a PM said we send Rs. 100 from the Centre and only Rs. 15 reaches villages. But the BJP Government has managed to send Rs. 100 to them," Rajendra said.

Pointing out that during the programme, six farmers from six States, who are beneficiaries, will interact with the Prime Minister, he said that *PM Kisan Samman Nidhi* is an ambitious scheme of Government, through which, an instalment of Rs. 2,000 gets transferred to the account of farmers thrice in a year and a farmer gets Rs. 6,000 in a year in his or her account.

The PM will just press a button at the event tomorrow and within two hours, the money will be credited into farmers' accounts, he said. Rajendra said Modi Government is committed to strengthening the agriculture sector. "We know that the agriculture field is crucial for us and our economy. Modi Government is committed to strengthening it. In the past six years, we have tried to do many reforms in the field of agriculture. Agriculture contribution should rise in GDP and youth should also get attracted towards agriculture," he said.

He added that the Government gets recommendations from time to time and tries to implement it and the farm laws have been based on suggestions by farmers. He said there have been suggestions in the past that agriculture should take a leap towards the free market but could not be made into laws. Those protesting against the farm laws should look at those supporting them and they should not listen to the smear campaign launched by vested interests, he said.

At the Mysuru BJP Office, farmers will be felicitated to mark the event. City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa, Rural District President Mangala Somashekar, State media spokesperson M.B. Mahesh were present at the press conference.

THANKS GIVING

Thank you for all the ways you have helped me and intervened on my behalf

SHILPA CHIRAG

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Schedule 'A' Property from its owner, **Sri. N. Nagendra** S/o Late Naganna Char, residing at No. 91, 7th Ward, Old Hospital Road, Gundlupete Town, Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarajanagar District- 571111, (Aadhaar No.: 5445 2133 0659) and the Schedule 'B' Property from its owner **Smt. N. Sathyavathi** W/o Sri. N. Nagendra, residing at no. 91, 7th Ward, Old Hospital Road, Gundlupete Town, Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarajanagar District-571111. (Aadhaar no.: 5556 5869 3927). If any person/s who claims any right, interest or title of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Properties or has/have any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge or report such claim and / or objections in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned within **Seven [7] days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event of no such claims / objections have received it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsists and my client would proceed to purchase the Schedule Properties as if no such claim or objections exists or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY BELONGS TO SRI. N. NAGENDRA

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing survey no. 73/1 measuring 1 Acre 16 Guntas and survey no. 75/1, measuring 0-38 Guntas, in total measuring 2 Acres 14 Guntas, situated at Nellithalapura Village, Hullahalli Hobli, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysuru District and bounded on :- East by : Mud Road (Daari), West by : Road in survey no. 159, North by : Property bearing survey nos. 73/2. 73/3, 73/4 & 74, South by : Survey no. 73/5 and 75/2.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY BELONGS TO SMT. N. SATHYAVATHI

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing survey no. 73/2, measuring 0-38 Guntas, survey no. 73/3, measuring 0-38 Guntas, survey no. 73/4 measuring 0-19 Guntas and survey no. 74, measuring 4 Acres 28 Guntas, in total measuring 7 Acres 0-03 Guntas, situated at Nellithalapura Village, Hullahalli Hobli, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysuru District and bounded on :- East by : Survey no. 72, West by : Road in survey no. 159, North by : Survey no. 84 & 85 of Motta Village, South by : Survey no. 73/1 & 75/1.

Sd/- K.N. MAHHADEVA SWAMY, B.Sc., L.L.B.
Advocate & Notary
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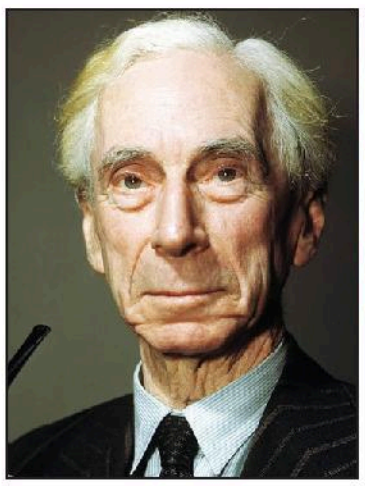
Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Of Journalism and Journalists !

Is Indian media divided ideologically, like political parties?



Bertrand Russell

Rajdeep Sardesai

Arnab Goswami

Newspapers, magazines, TV channels and social media have all come under the scrutiny not so much of the users of these news sources as from those so-called intellectuals and ideologues who are *per se* classified as Right Liberals and Left Liberals.

While the Left Liberals call the Right Liberals as Communal, religious bigots, the Right Liberals call the Left Liberals, as pseudo-secular and *Tukde-Tukde* gang. We can even identify and name each of the media as to which category each one belongs.

For example, 'if you ask, to which category Arnab Goswami or Rajdeep Sardesai belongs, one who is TV news-savvy will tell you the category without batting an eye-lid.

This colouring of media became perceptible after Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister and continued as an undercurrent in the still waters of journalism and went unnoticed till 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power under BJP. Undoubtedly, he is a Hindu nationalist accepting the ideal of Secularism enshrined in our Constitution. But the Opposition parties looked at BJP with suspicion as rank Communal ignoring the Communal and Dynastic character of their own parties in quest of power, coming together under different names like *Mahagathbandhan* or as in Maharashtra *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA).

Well, in such a political situation the media indeed has a difficult role to report news and views without appearing to be biased or coloured or partisan. No wonder, media and journalists have come under severe criticism from all sections of the people, the consumers of news.

The earliest stigma that was slapped on journalists was calling them as "Yellow Journalists." Not that all journalists are paragons of virtue, but to brand a journalist, who writes the facts, acts as the 'eyes and ears' of the reader, which may not be to the liking of an individual or group of people, as a yellow journalist or a blackmailer, is unfair. The worst was when some one called journalists as "presstitutes." No.

By the way, much change has taken place in the manner journalism is practiced today. For example, during my days in 60s and 70s, there used to be War Correspondents. Frank Anthony of Bombay newspapers used to work as one very egregiously read. But by the time Iraq War began, led by USA, we heard of not War Correspondents but of "Embedded Journalists !" Who is this new creature? He does not cover both the enemies in the War. He is cooped up in the armoured tank of the Americans and reports !

Purveying and dissemination of news, through what came to be known as newspaper, has a history of centuries, but newspaper as a professional work, in certain physical format, evolved over long years in different parts of the world and readers came to accept its format, size, contents as their source of news, views and entertainment. After all, like politics and economics, journalism cannot be an exact subject. Though there were educational institutions and Universities imparting education on various subjects like Arts, Commerce and Science, none of them taught Journalism as a subject for long. Thus, journalism came to be a social need. The advent of Democracy considered it as the Fourth Pillar (Estate) along with other three pillars of Democracy — Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Which is why, media is called the "Fourth Estate."

Yet, journalism came to be taught in the Universities only since the late last century. When I studied journalism in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bombay, it was only a diploma course in the early 1960s and there was no college giving degrees. But today all that is changed and journalism has become a subject of professional study in its various specialisations.

Be that as it may, as a result many books on the subject have been published by experienced editors and journalists all over the world. For example, nearer home, India's well-known journalist, author and columnist TJS George found time to write a very instructive book in the year 1989 on editing a newspaper titled *"Editing, a handbook for journalists."* This has been my guide ever since it was published because it tells you among other aspects, about giving headlines, editing pictures, effective, reader-friendly layouts, facets of subbing (editing copies sans deficiencies in information, use of apt words, including journalese etc., etc.)

Anyway, I doubt if today's reporter, writer or sub-editor ever cared for such fineness in editing a copy. To give one example, last week I was going through a national newspaper of repute. I happened to see a double column headline item titled, *"Hathras victim gang-raped and murdered: CBI,"* news originating from Lucknow, UP. I know a huge controversy had erupted about this case of allegations of "cover-up" by the Police (say government).

The victim was from a poor, backward class. A nation-wide outrage was triggered after the UP Police had claimed that the victim had not been raped. The victim died in September this year at a Delhi hospital after making a 'dying declaration' and the Police relied on it. But what was the 'dying declaration' is not in the report.

The reader is naturally curious. The news says, "The family of the accused had alleged that the teen was killed by her brother." The reader wants to know what the brother of the victim has to say about this allegation. I guess, the sub-editor should have taken the trouble to find out and provide this information to his readers. Let it be.

Now let me recall the opinion of Bertrand Russell, the Nobel Laureate, the famous author, philosopher and Pacifist about journalists. According to him, journalists are masters in creating **sensation and mass hysteria.** I am inclined to agree after watching our own world of journalism.

Once I thought there was going to be a "coup" in Delhi a few years before 2014, with a barrage of accusations against the then Army Chief. And even later many such or similar sensations were created by a section of the media.

To Russell: "Mass hysteria is a phenomenon not confined to human beings; it may be seen in any gregarious species." He says that once in Africa a large herd of wild elephants, seeing an aeroplane for the first time, got so frightened that they were all in a state of **collective terror**. As, however, there were no **journalists** among them, the terror died down when the aeroplane was out of sight. Should I say more?

e-mail
voice@starofmysore.com

Put Xmas, New Year Party plans on hold: DCP

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru city will miss the usual Christmas and New Year Eve celebrations in clubs, pubs and restaurants among other places with the State Government banning special DJ dance and parties till Jan. 2, 2021.

However, there will be no restrictions on Xmas prayers tonight. All parties at clubs, pubs and restaurants must end at 11 pm from today and the same guidelines will be in force till the next day after New Year.

As with most festivals this year, Christmas too will be a low-key affair. "Midnight Christmas mass on 24th night shall be permitted as per guidelines issued on Dec. 17. Celebration of Christmas and New Year festivities shall be as per the guidelines," the Government order stated.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda said that the Government guidelines will strictly be implemented. "We have no objection to Christmas midnight mass but the guidelines must be followed. Organisers and supervisors at Churches must ensure that a large number of people don't gather at a time and social distance is maintained. Also people should not indulge in handshakes or hugging during the festivities," he said.

City Police teams will be present in full force on roads, in front of churches and other thoroughfares and as of now, the Reserve Police teams have not been deployed. "As the Government has stated in its order, hotels, liquor shops, bars, restaurants and pubs should abide by the night curfew failing which their licences will be cancelled. We will coordinate with the Excise Department officials and field officers in ensuring that liquor shops and wine stores will close within the deadline," the DCP added.

Barricades will be laid on the main roads and other connecting routes to prevent unnecessary movements. Essential services will be allowed and there will be patrolling by Garuda and PCR vehicles. Police teams will go easy on the people who return from Christmas Eve service.

Gathering of people at public places and roads for celebrations stands prohibited, but normal routine activities can be carried out at these places. In the guidelines, the Police and Deputy Commissioners have been given the authority to impose more restrictions at certain specific roads or places in their jurisdiction, Dr. Prakash Gowda added.

Churches decked up for Xmas

Malls, hotels illuminated with LED lights; staff dress as Santa Claus

Inside view of St. Philomena's Church at Lashkar Mohalla.

Hardwicke Church on Vani Vilas Road in Lakshmipuram.

Wesley Cathedral near Suburban Bus Stand.

(Continued from page 1)

"I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. May this Christmas 2020 help us go beyond our petty selves and make us broader minded. May it heal all wounds, small and great, both physical, mental, psychological and spiritual. May this Christmas bring joy and peace to the whole world and may God bless every human being," the Mysuru Bishop wished.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Mysuru's oldest Church (adjacent to Sub-Urban Bus Stand) is all set to celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way and by following guidelines, said Church's Presbyter Rev. Daniel Kaundinya.

He said that there will be no midnight service at the Church tonight but Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6.30 pm today. Tomorrow (Dec. 25), the first service will be held at 7 am and the second service at 8.30 am, he said and added that both the services will be Holy Communion Services. Only Church members will be allowed and there will be no entry for outsiders.

In his message, Rev. Daniel said "It seems like a long and anxious wait for the season of Christmas to unfurl into a season exploding with joy, peace and happiness. Though the overshadowing pandemic seemed to dampen the spirit of the celebration of Christ's coming, the nature was gracious in affirming the greatness of 'Immanuel' who faithfully sustained the life of everyone."

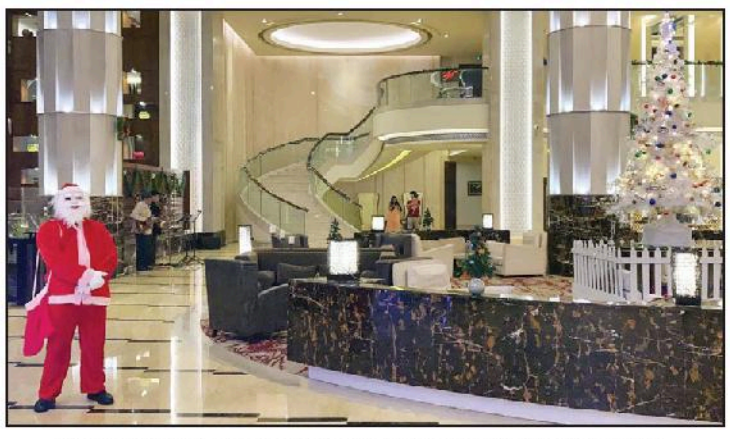
"May this season of Christmas bring joy, peace and happiness into our lives in a very special way. May the season lead us into yet another blessed New Year," he added.

City Churches decorated

Various Churches across the city such as St. Philomena's Church, St. Bartholomew's Church, Wesley Cathedral, Hardwicke Church at Lakshmipuram, Pushpashram at Naidu Nagar and Infant Jesus Church on Hunsur Road among other Churches in city have been specially decorated and illuminated for the occasion.

Many Churches are decorated with colourful LED lights, illuminated stars and cribs placed inside a manger to depict the birth of Jesus Christ.

Many hotels and malls including Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel on M.G. Road and Forum Mall at Nazarbad in city are also decked up for Christmas celebrations. Attractive decorations, colourful LED lights and staff dressed as Santa Claus are attracting people.



Santa welcoming guests at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel.

Forum Mall beckons Christmas shoppers.

MYSORE TRAIN TIMINGS

FROM MYSURU RAILWAY STATION

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Mysuru Departure	Bengaluru Arrival	Days of Service	
06518	Mangaluru	KSR Bengaluru	05.50	08.40	Fri, Sat & Sun	Fully reserved
06558	Mysuru	Bangarpet	05.50	08.43	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06504	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	06.45	09.35	Daily	Fully reserved
06229	Mysuru	Varanasi	07.20	09.55	Tue & Thu	Fully reserved
02975	Mysuru	Jaipur	10.40	12.55	Thu & Sat	Fully reserved
02578	Mysuru	Darbhanga	10.40	13.20	Friday	Fully reserved
06201	Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru	11.30	14.00	Daily	Partially unreserved
06315	Mysuru	Kochuveli	12.50	16.35	Daily	Fully reserved
07307	Mysuru	Bagalkot	13.30	16.30	Daily	Fully reserved
02786	Mysuru	Kacheguda	15.15	17.55	Daily	Fully reserved
06535	Mysuru	Solapur	15.45	18.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06232	Mysuru	Mayiladuturai	16.30	18.45	Daily	Fully reserved
06219	Chamarajanagar	Tirupati	17.10	20.20	Daily	Fully reserved
06236	Mysuru	Tuticorin	18.20	21.05	Daily	Fully reserved
06210	Mysuru	Ajmer	19.00	21.55	Tue & Thu	Fully reserved
06582	Mysuru	Hubballi	18.35	21.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06227	Mysuru	Talguppa	19.30	22.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06022	Mysuru	MGR Chennai Central	21.00	23.45	Daily	Fully reserved

STAR OF MYSORE Service to readers

DEPARTING FROM KSR BENGALURU AND ARRIVING MYSURU

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Bengaluru Departure	Mysuru Arrival	Days of Service	
06209	Ajmer	Mysuru	23.45	02.15	Tue & Sun	Fully reserved
06021	MGR Chennai Central	Mysuru	03.55	06.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06228	Talguppa	Mysuru	04.30	07.45	Daily	Fully reserved
06231	Mayiladuturai	Mysuru	05.55	08.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06581	Hubballi	Mysuru	05.55	08.55	Daily	Fully reserved
02785	Kacheguda	Mysuru	06.45	09.40	Daily	Fully reserved
06235	Tuticorin	Mysuru	07.00	09.55	Daily	Fully reserved
06220	Tirupati	Chamarajanagar	07.20	10.30	Daily	Fully reserved
06536	Solapur	Mysuru	07.50	11.00	Daily	Fully reserved
06316	Kochuveli	Mysuru	08.45	11.20	Daily	Fully reserved
07308	Bagalkot	Mysuru	11.15	13.50	Daily	Fully reserved
02976	Jaipur	Mysuru	13.00	15.45	Wed & Fri	Fully reserved
06202	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	15.15	17.45	Daily	Partially unreserved
06503	KSR Bengaluru	Mysuru	18.15	21.05	Daily	Fully reserved
02577	Darbhanga	Mysuru	18.40	21.40	Thursday	Fully reserved
06557	Bangarpet	Mysuru	19.20	22.25	6 days a week except Sunday	Unreserved
06517	KSR Bengaluru	Mangaluru	20.30	23.05	Wed, Fri & Sun	Fully reserved
06230	Varanasi	Mysuru	23.30	02.15	Mon & Sat	Fully reserved

TOWARDS HUBBALLI AND BACK VIA HASSAN, ARSIKERE, DAVANGERE & HAVERI

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Mysuru Departure	Dharwad Arrival	Days of Service	
07301	Mysuru	Dharwad	22.30	08.05	Daily	Fully reserved
07302	Dharwad	Mysuru	20.50	07.05	Daily	Fully reserved

TOWARDS CHAMARAJANAGAR AND BACK

Train No.	From Station	To Station	Departure	Arrival	Days of Service	
06220	Tirupati	Chamarajanagar	10.40 (Mysuru)	12.30	Daily	Fully Reserved
06223	Mysuru	Chamarajanagar	12.35	14.35	Daily	Unreserved
06219	Chamarajanagar	Tirupati	15.10	16.45 (Mysuru)	Daily	Fully reserved
06234	Chamarajanagar	Mysuru	17.00	18.40	Daily	Unreserved

All rail-related information through mobile phones:
Type <Rail> send to 139 or dial 139 on land lines.

Security Helpline: 182

Passengers can buy unreserved tickets three days in advance for journeys beyond 200 kms at :

1) Booking Office, Mysore Railway Station
2) Tejaswi Enterprises, # 115, opposite Thaponandana Park, Panchamanthra Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysore570 023 (Ph: 2341111)
3) Ravitheja Enterprises #514 Bharath Mansion, New Kalidasa Road, Vijayanagar 1st stage, Mysore (08214256789).

For battery operated vehicle facility call Mob: 97316-18884

NOTE: *Computerised Advanced Reservation facility is also available at Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashram Post Office (Ph: 0821 2417311) and Siddarthanagar Post Office (Ph: 0821 2417335), Sharma Services, Keerthi Plaza, Chamundipuram, Mysore Ph: 08214289032. Railway timetable is published in Star of Mysore every Thursday.*

Natl. Consumer Day today

Opportunity to celebrate "Consumer is the King"

By Bhamy V. Shenoy

Every year Dec. 24 is celebrated as National Consumer Day (NCD). It was the day Indian Parliament adapted Consumer Protection Act (CPA) in 1986. On this day we have been discussing that "Consumer is the King" and how CPA helps the consumers.

However this year we should resolve to make a difference. Finally after several amendments over the years to CPA 1986, it was comprehensively amended in 2019. The theme of NCD this year as suggested by Ministry of Consumer Affairs is *"New features of Consumer Protection Act 2019 (NCPA)."*

The old Consumer Protection Act of 1986 was a great gift to us by Parliament despite its faulty implementation by the Consumer Courts. Most of the retired Judges presiding over them converted them into veritable Civil Courts and failed to give judgements within the stipulated 90 days.

Some interesting features of NCPA may help the consumers in getting speedy judgement provided members of consumers are given proper training. For Karnataka, Administrative Training Institute should play a critical role in organising such courses. Without intensive training, we will back to square one. Some of the salient features of NCPA are discussed below.

NCPA does not stipulate that the President or some of the members of Commissions should have legal background or have served as Judges. All appointments will be made by the Central Government. This feature of the new Act has come under some criticism for not having members with legal background. On the other hand, not limiting the post of presiding officer to only those with judicial background, may result in speedier judgement. Most consumer cases are simple and do not need application of complicated laws.

NCPA has widened the definition of 'consumer'. Even those who buy goods online or through telemarketing are consumers. Pecuniary limits have been enhanced. District Consumer Fora can handle up to Rs. 1 crore, State Commissions up to Rs. 10 crore and cases involving more than that have to be submitted to National Commission.

Consumer Courts have the option of referring cases to settlement through mediation for speedier and simpler way of resolving disputes. There are no fees while filing if disputed amount is less than Rs. 5 lakh. This is a big relief for most consumers. Let us hope this will not be changed as they did by imposing fees with the old CPA on the pretext there were many frivolous cases.

Now we have the flexibility to file complaint where we live or work and not necessarily where purchase was made or at the place of sellers registered office. This is a huge benefit. Consumers can now file complaint electronically and parties can be examined through videoconferencing.

There will be new Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) with wide powers of authority. CCPA can conduct enquiries and investigate into violations of consumer laws. It can recall products, order reimbursement of the price of goods/services, file class action suits when more than one individual is affected. This is really the dawn of a new era in consumer movement in India. But this will happen only when competent and honest professionals are appointed to administer CCPA.

NCPA has introduced the product liability on the part of manufacturers and service providers to compensate who have suffered. Unfair trade practices can be taken up either by individual consumer or by CCPA. There will be penalties for misleading advertisements. Even those celebrities who are behind misleading ads can be prosecuted in the future.

One of the major criticisms of NCPA was that it does not specifically include services provided by medical practitioners. However some experts feel that since the Supreme Court has already given judgements that medical services are also included under CPA, there was no need to include it specifically. Overarching goals of CPA are to provide effective safeguards to consumers from exploitation against defective goods, unfair trade practices and deficiency in services. While there is much interest to achieve the first two goals, there is hardly any attention paid either by the government while amending CPA or by NGOs to promote consumer rights while they seek government services.

At every government institution we are treated more as "servants rather than as masters". But how many of us are ready to approach Consumer Courts? Only when we the people come together, make efforts to join credible NGOs and stand for our rights, consumers will be kings and queens in the private sector, and be treated as "masters and not servants" in the public sector. On National Consumer Day, let us resolve to take up our responsibility of living in a Democracy.

Hoysala Awards to be presented on Dec. 27

Dr. Gurudatta | Sampath Kumar | Jayalakshmi | Chandravadana Rao | Prof. Mallikarjuna | Dr. Sathyanarayana | Ramanna

Gopalakrishna | Suresh | Dr. Kavitha | Mithra Naveen | Dr. Mamatha | Dr. Dikshit | Vid. Keshava | Venkataramaiah

Mysuru, Dec. 24 - The following achievers from various fields have been selected for the prestigious State-level Hoysala Awards (2019) given by Hoysala Kannada Sangha and Savigannada Patrika Balaga:

Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta (Literature and Translation), *Padma Shri* awardee couple K. Sampath Kumar and Jayalakshmi (Editors of 'Sudharma' Sanskrit daily for Sanskrit Journalism), H.R. Chandravadana Rao (Translation), Prof. Morabada Mallikarjuna (Education and Administration), Dr. T.V. Sathyanarayana (Sanskrit and Heritage), U.S. Ramanna (Folklore and Theatre), Pragathi Gopalakrishna (Press Photography), Suresh Rigvedi (Indian Culture and Heritage), Dr. Kavitha Rai (Literature and literary criticism), Vidu. Mithra Naveen (Bharatanatyam), Dr. Mamatha Sathyanarayana (Wildlife and Environment), Dr. Mugur Madhu Dikshit (Astrology), Vid. D. Keshava (Dance and Yoga), M.S. Venkataramaiah (Culture and Organisation).

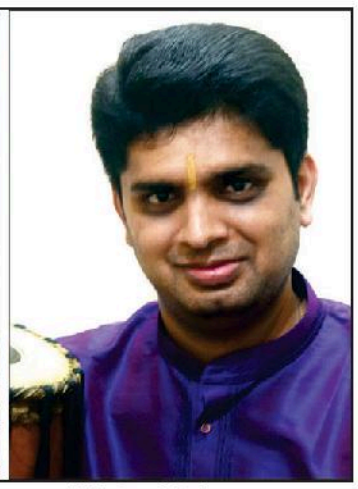
The awards will be presented at a programme to be held at Veene Seshanna Bhavan on Adichunchanagiri Road in Kuvempunagar at 4.30 pm on Dec. 27, marking the 18th anniversary of Savigannada Patrika Balaga.

Sri Ilai Alwar Swamiji of Melkote Vangipur Nambi Mutt will grace the occasion. Chairman of D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation R. Raghu Kautilya will be inaugurating the event. Agricultural scientist Dr. Vasanth Kumar Thimakapura will be releasing the 18th anniversary special issue of Savigannada Patrike.

Retired Officer of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) K. Jayaprakash Rao will be conferring the awards. Retired Registrar of Karnataka Nataka Academy A.S. Nagaraj will be addressing the gathering. President of Hoysala Kannada Sangha Maddikere Gopal will preside. Poetess Dr. Latha Rajashekar, Retired General Manager of Canara Bank Dr. S.T. Ramachandra, theatre artist B.M. Ramachandra and writer Dr. Pushpa Iyengar will be the chief guests, according to a press release.

Online Veena concert
by Vid. Balu Masthi tomorrow

Vid. Balu Masthi



Vid. Sunil Subramanya

Mysuru, Dec. 24-Ganabharathi has organised a Veena concert by Vidwan Balu Masthi on Dec. 25 at 6 pm. He will be accompanied by Vidwan Sunil Subrahmanya on mridanga. The programme is not a public performance but will only be live on both Ganabharathi Facebook page and Youtube.

Profile: Balu Masthi is a performing Karnatak Veena artiste who has been learning and playing Veena for many years from a young age. He was a youth artiste in All India Radio during his childhood and is a graded AIR Veena artiste now. He learnt Veena from late Vid. A.V. Prakash for many years. He also had an opportunity to learn Veena from Vidu. Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh.

Born in 1986 near Sringeri, **Sunil Subramanya** was drawn to the art of percussion as a child. He hails from a family with deep roots in music, particularly in the Bhajana Sampradaya. He started his initial training at the age of 10 under his father Subramanya and Sringeri Ramachandra Rao. At the age of 15 he came under the tutelage of mridanga Maestro Vidwan Bangalore Arjun Kumar. Sunil is an 'A' graded artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

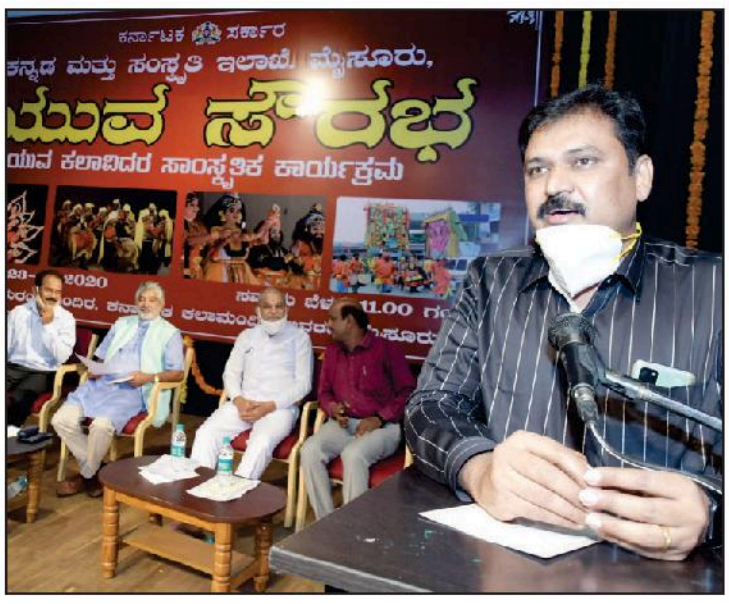
For concert details contact A. Radhesh on Mob: 9448051564.

ADC inaugurates 'Yuva Sourabha' in city

Mysuru, Dec. 24 (RKB&KS)- 'Yuva Sourabha,' cultural programmes by young artistes, organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture, which began from Dec. 20 in the district, was inaugurated at Kiru Rangamandira in Rangayana premises yesterday.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Dr. B.S. Manjunatha Swamy. Rangayana Director Addanda C. Cariappa presided. Rangayana Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy and Theatre artist B.M. Ramachandra were the chief guests. Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Channappa was present.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Dr. Manjunatha Swamy said that 'Yuva Sourabha' was being held from Dec. 20 to 30 at various places in the district. Pointing out that no programmes were held from March till December due to COVID-19 pandemic, the ADC said that though the pandemic situation has decreased, still, necessary precautions must be taken and advised the organisers to hold programmes by maintaining social distancing among other precautions.



Additional DC Dr. B.S. Manjunatha Swamy addressing the gathering after inaugurating 'Yuva Sourabha' at Kiru Rangamandira yesterday as** (sitting from left) **Rangayana Joint Director V.S. Mallikarjunaswamy, Rangayana Director Addanda C. Cariappa, theatre artist B.M. Ramachandra and Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Channappa look on.

Rangayana Director Addanda Cariappa, who also spoke, said that after the COVID-19 lockdown was relaxed, Rangayana had become active. Pointing out that programmes were being held since 7-8 months, he said that now, a lot of theatre enthusiasts were thronging to watch plays and added that due to lack of seats, many were being turned away.

Cariappa called upon the artistes to stage dramas, dance, folk arts programmes by maintaining social distancing and also taking other necessary precautionary steps to keep the deadly virus at bay.

He said that programmes by amateur artistes would be held for the whole month in January 2021 at Vanaranga, Bhoomigeeta and Sriranga auditoriums in Rangayana premises.

Dance-drama, Bharatanatya, Folk songs, *Kolata*, *Dollu Kunitha*, *Katha Keerthana* etc. were performed yesterday.

Vidu. Archana Rao to perform in "Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama"

Archana

Jayaram

Prithvi

Raghunandan

Mysuru, Dec. 24- A vocal concert by Vidu. Archana L. Rao will be presented online by Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysuru, as the next episode of its "Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama - 2020" series. The concert showcasing young talents will be premiered on its YouTube channel at 5 pm on Saturday (Dec. 26).

Profile: Hailing from a family of musicians, Archana was initiated into Karnatak classical music at a very young age by her grandfather 'Haridasa Sangeetha Gana Ratna' Koviladi K. Rangarajan, a renowned musician in Srirangam and is under the tutelage of her mother, senior musician and Guru Vidu. Koviladi R. Kala since then.

A graded artiste of AIR, Archana is a regular performer for more than 15 years now. She has performed in several prestigious Sabhas, including Shanmukhananda Sabha, Mumbai, Parampara and Arkay Convention Centres, Chennai, Sangeetha Parishat, Mangalore and in almost all the sabhas of Mysuru.

Archana is a recipient of 2nd prize in all India AIR music competition, 'Kishor Prathibha' from GoK, 'M S Subbulakshmi award' from Bhramara Trust, RTP prize from Shruthi Manjari Prathistana and was the finalist in national-level 'Naad Bhed' conducted by SPICMACAY and DD and topped State in KSEE Board music senior examination.

City's young talent **Vid. Prithvi Bhaskar,** senior artist **Vid. M.S.Jayaram** and **Vid. Raghunandan Rao** will accompany her on violin, mridanga and ghata respectively.

Music-lovers are requested to watch the concert by visiting Sabha's YouTube channel at Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust [Facebook page: Sri ThyagarajaSangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysore; YouTube Channel: Sri ThyagarajaSangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust], according to a press release from Vid. H. K. Narasimhamurthy, Honorary Secretary of the Sabha.

WORD OF THE DAY

Comity

Pronunciation: KAH-muh-tee.

Meaning: Friendly social atmosphere: social harmony; a loose widespread community based on common social institutions; the courtesy and friendship of nations marked especially by mutual recognition of executive, legislative, and judicial acts : comity of nations.

Origin: "Our country soweth also in the field of our breasts many precious seeds, as ... honest behavior, affability, comity," wrote English clergyman Thomas Becon in 1543. Becon's use is an early documented appearance of comity—a word derived from Latin cōmitās, meaning "friendliness, courtesy, or graciousness." Comity is largely used in political and judicial contexts. Since 1804, comity of nations has referred to countries bound by a courteous relationship based on mutual recognition of executive, legislative, and judicial acts. And, in legal contexts, comity refers to the recognition by courts of one jurisdiction of the laws and judicial decisions of another.

Example: "Most Las Vegas rides from the casino back to the rooms breed comity, compassion—everyone's been fleeced by the same con—but this crew stews and accuses." — Walter Kirn, Up in the Air, 2001.

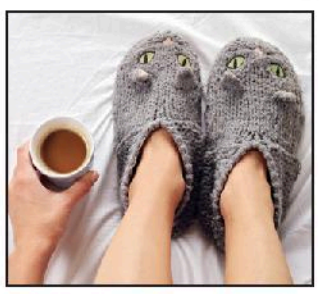
THE ODD WORD

Cabriolet

Two-wheeled carriage.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Cold Feet



Meaning: Nervous or hesitant about doing something; loss of courage, failure of confidence, to hesitate a lot, suddenly become too frightened to do something one had planned to do.

Origin: It seems as if the phrase was originally used by Presbyterian missionaries in the 1800s. The original phrase was: "Man cannot be converted while suffering from cold feet or an empty stomach."

This insinuates that someone cannot be converted if they are poor. The phrase was often in reference to poor people. If you had no money for shoes then your feet would be cold.

There are also some examples that point to the origin of the phrase being related to gamblers backing out of a game when they have lost all of their money. It is thought that the phrase started out when poor people would back out of financial commitments that they were unable to fulfill. The first example of this is in a German novel published in 1862.

QUOTE BOX

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. **— Robert Louis Stevenson**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Reinforced concrete.

SUDOKU

			8	5			2	
2							8	
					7	1	4	
	3				4	7		
9		4				2		3
		1	3				5	
	9	2	7					
	8							1
	5			4	6			

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	7	8	3	2	6	1	5
2	3	5	6	7	1	8	4	9
8	1	6	9	5	4	2	7	3
5	6	2	4	8	3	1	9	7
1	7	8	2	9	5	4	3	6
9	4	3	1	6	7	5	8	2
6	2	4	7	1	9	3	5	8
7	5	1	3	2	8	9	6	4
3	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

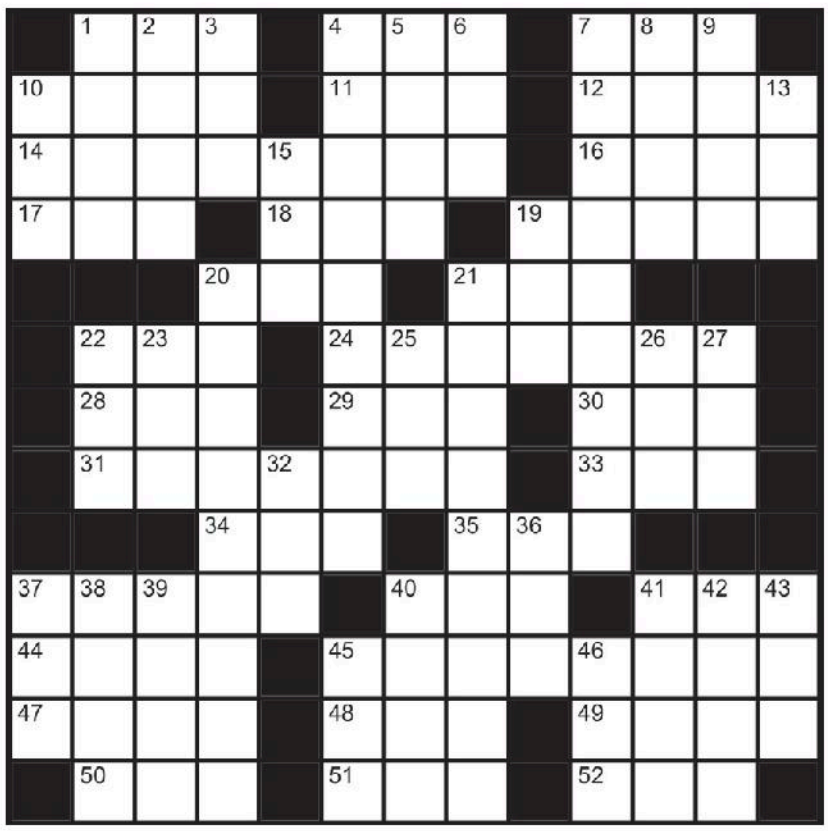
1 "One", as a prefix
4 PC alternative
7 To the ___ degree : to the ultimate degree?
10 Malay dagger
11 Ms Gardner
12 Part of QED
14 Created, originated or wrote
16 The way we ___ : what our existence was?
17 Lightning Sensor Sys.
18 At a great distance
19 Inquired of
20 Quantity of heat in FPS unit
21 Drinking vessel
22 Airspeed Indicator, abbr.
24 Mumbai's suburb is also a notorious slum
28 Comrade or friend
29 Electrically charged atom
30 Woodland deity
31 Schemed or plotted
33 Tolkien's tree like creature
34 To pull hard
35 Like some vbs.
37 Safe spot
40 Stir or tumult
41 Short for 'manuscripts'
44 Mimic or copier
45 Stalemate
47 Mother of Luv and Kush
48 His wife was changed to pillar of salt
49 English exclamation (1,3)
50 Above sea level
51 Only partner
52 Aeronautical Telecommunications Network

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

C	U	B	E		F	I	R		C	P	A	S
E	R	R	S		I	V	E		L	A	S	H
I	C	E	T		N	O	V		E	C	H	O
L	E	A		U	N	R	E	L	A	T	E	D
		K	K	R			A	Y	N			
C	L	I	E	N	T	E	L	E		C	A	N
R	A	N	G		O	N	E		N	A	S	A
T	U	G		O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E
			A	S	O			L	I	B		
A	G	G	R	E	G	A	T	E		E	T	A
T	I	O	S		G	A	R		T	R	A	M
O	R	N	O		A	R	I		A	R	M	Y
M	I	E	N		N	E	O		G	A	E	L

DOWN

1 Extinct ox - "Suru" anagram?
2 Eggs of insects
3 "Like" suffix
4 Ravaging, ransacking or pillaging
5 Declare to be true
6 Comp. Aided Design
7 Publication
8 Long journey
9 Mammal of the rabbit family
10 Sharukh Khan's ___ Ho Na Ho
13 Little Edward
15 Frequently
19 "And" in Hindi
20 Involving two sides
21 Nominee
22 Third party program for a smartphone
23 ___ volatile : another name for smelling salts?
25 Gardening tool
26 Goods vehicle
27 Integer, in short?
32 Woman in religious order
36 Fishing implement
37 A ___ been : a spent force?
38 Samoan Port
39 Animal doctors, in short
40 Vast age
41 Greatest number
42 Examine
43 The heavens
45 Dead Letter Off.
46 "Ali" turning into a girl?



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

M FYOL VTNMWD. MN MZ ZY KITP

KYCL CLVF NPVW FMQL.

TODAY'S CLUE: D EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: We live in a Newtonian world of Einsteinian physics ruled by Frankenstein logic.

Night curfew as per expert suggestion: Health Minister

Bengaluru, Dec. 24 (SSV)- Night curfew has been imposed in Karnataka as per suggestions by the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), clarified Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar.

Talking to media after briefing Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa here yesterday, he said night curfew had been imposed starting from today (Dec. 24) 11 pm until Jan. 1, 2021 (5 am on Jan. 2. 2021) in the wake of emergence of a new strain of Coronavirus in Britain and other European countries.

People are advised to wind up their activities by 11 pm and unnecessary gatherings and celebrations are prohibited. Citizens must co-operate with the Government since decision had been taken in the interest of public health and safety.

The Minister said Health Department officials will keep vigil on those returned from UK from Nov. 25 to Dec. 22. They will undergo 28 days compulsory quarantine. Health officials will take care of their health for initial 14 days. After that individuals have to voluntarily restrict themselves at homes.

Dr. K. Sudhakar

As many as 2,500 passengers have arrived in the State during this period. Two flights per day arrived during this period. Details of the passengers were available and every single passenger will be kept under strict vigilance. RT-PCR test will be conducted if symptomatic, he added.

Study in Bengaluru

"We have 4 elite institutes in Bengaluru including Indian Institute of Sciences and NIMHANS to study genetic sequence of the virus. Sample of the positive persons would be given to these institutions for study and research would be conducted on new variant of the virus," he said.

Get your facts right

Reacting to a political leader's statement that 14,000 passengers have arrived from UK in Bengaluru, he said this was baseless and said there was no need for the Government to conceal data. It was better for the politicians to get their facts right before they talk in public.

Responding to objections by Bar and Hotel Owners Association for night curfew, Dr.Sudhakar clarified that night curfew decision was not a happy decision but it is inevitable. Considering the public health and safety, night curfew has been imposed. There would be no restrictions for any activities before 11 pm and all agricultural activities including transportation and marketing of farm produce would not be affected.

"Everyone should be sensible and act responsibly in this matter, we should not consider only financial implications, and public health is paramount. Curfew is for only 9 days, it will enable us to study the genetic sequence of the new mutant during this period."

Government's night curfew order comes under criticism

Bengaluru, Dec. 24 (SSV)- In order to take additional measures to combat the spread of new variant of Coronavirus, the State Government has imposed night curfew from 11 pm to 5 am starting today (Dec.24) until 5 am on Jan. 2, 2021, as per Sec 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

The orders have been issued by T.M.Vijaybhaskar, Chief Secretary and Chairman, State Executive Committee, on Wednesday. He has directed Deputy Commissioners, Police Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and other heads of departments and authorities to strictly implement the night curfew rules.

In fact, the Government issued two orders on a single day yesterday. First it was Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa who announced that night curfew would be imposed from 10 pm on the night of Dec. 23 (yesterday) up to 6 am on Jan. 2, 2021. Later, the CM intervened to make it flexible and relaxed the curfew hours from 11 pm to 5 am. This caused some confusion and the Government came under criticism.

Conditions imposed by Government

- Movement of individuals should remain strictly prohibited between 11 pm and 5 am except for essential activities.
- There should be no restriction in movement of all types of goods through trucks, goods vehicle or any goods carriers including empty vehicles.
- All industries/companies/organisations which require operations at night should be permitted to operate with 50 per cent of staff. Movement of employees of such organisation should be allowed on producing valid ID card issued by their respective organisation/institution.
- Industries/factories which require 24X7 operations will be allowed to operate without any restrictions.
- Movement of long distance night bus, train services and air services are permitted.
- To and fro movement of taxis and auto rickshaws are permitted for dropping/pickup of people to/from bus stops/railway stations/Airports. This movement will be allowed on displaying valid tickets.
- Midnight Christmas mass on Dec. 24 night permitted as per guidelines issued on Dec 17.
- Celebration of Christmas and New Year festival should be as per the guidelines issued on Dec. 17.

Curfew is a sham

The night curfew order has come under severe criticism not only from the general public but also from opposition parties. The public have termed it as 'sham' as it was not going to help to contain the new strain of Coronavirus in any manner.

"What is the purpose of imposing night curfew when the Government has allowed bars and restaurants to open till 11 am, running of KSRTC buses, pick up and drop of people by private cabs and running of goods vehicles," critics said.

Not an owl

A few have reacted that the new strain of Coronavirus was not an owl to move only during night. Politicians have slammed the Chief Minister for taking such a 'ridiculous' decision by opening everything till 11 pm. They have sought to know from the Government whether the virus takes break in the morning after working the whole night.

Contradictory statement

In Bengaluru, Transport Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi announced that KSRTC buses would not be operated after 10 pm since the safety of passengers was more important than revenue.

However, after going to Belagavi, he took a U-turn and said KSRTC buses would be operated as schedule during night for the sake of passengers. He said the CM personally told him that there should be no disruption of bus services during curfew time.

Malayalam Director Shanavas passes away

Kochi, Dec. 24 (Agencies)- Naranipuzha Shanavas, a noted Malayalam film director, died at a private hospital last night following brief illness. He was 37. According to sources, he suffered a heart attack on Dec.21 on the sets of his upcoming film *Gandhirajan.*

Shanavas

He was admitted to KG Hospital in Coimbatore where he went into cardiogenic shock and was declared brain dead. Later, he was shifted to a hospital in Kochi where he breathed his last. Last rites will take place in Kochi today.

Naranipuzha Shanavas' death has shocked the entire film industry. His last film was *Sufiyum Sujatayum* starring Aditi Rao Hydari, Jayasurya and Dev Mohan in the lead roles.

"Malayalam cinema has lost a promising filmmaker," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, condoling the death.

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- **Gruha Shobhe:** International Living Style Exhibition, special attraction - Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Dasara Exhibition Ground, **10 am to 9 pm.**
- **K.K. Hebbar Art Foundation:** Airing of radio serial titled 'Kala Tapaswi K.K. Hebbar' produced by K.K. Hebbar Art Foundation on FM Rainbow 101.3Mhz and All India Radio (AIR), **2.02 pm to 2.07 pm.** [Mob: 98452-44756]
- **Janahita Sangha:** 2021 Calendar release and lecture to mark Crime Prevention Month, Saraswathipuram Police Inspector C. Thimmaraju chief guest, Sangha Executive Member M. Kannan presides, Sangha premises, **6.30 pm.**

NOW SHOWING - MOVIES

Padma Theatre Ph: 2521923

Biskoth (Ta) — 4 shows — 10.30 am, 1.30 pm, 4.30 pm, 7.30 pm

DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Wonder Women - 1984 (E)	(S-1)	1.10 pm, 4.15 pm, 7.50 pm
	(S-4)	10.45 am, 6.50 pm
Pursothrama (K)	(S-2)	1.30 pm
Tenet (E)	(S-2)	4.15 pm
	(S-3)	1.30 pm, 7.00 pm
Act 1978 (K)	(S-2)	7.15 pm
	(S-3)	11.00 am, 4.30 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Wonder Women - 1984 (E)	(S-1)	10.30 am, 2.00 pm
		5.30 pm, 9.00 pm
	(S-2)	11.30 am, 3.00 pm
		6.30 pm, 9.55 pm
	(S-3)	8.00 pm
Act-1978 (K)	(S-3)	10.45 am, 4.50 pm
RH 100 (K)	(S-3)	1.45 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here. **The other multiplexes and single screen theatres are yet to open.**

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